

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____



DEFENSIVE DRIVING & HAZARD RECOGNITION

Grades 9-12 | Lesson 1



LESSON OVERVIEW

Defensive driving is not about _____ — it is about _____.

This lesson covers the _____ decision-making process, proper _____,

and how to identify and respond to road _____ before they become emergencies.

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KEY VOCABULARY

SIPDE: _____

FOLLOWING DISTANCE: _____

FIXED HAZARD: _____

VARIABLE HAZARD: _____

ESCAPE ROUTE: _____

THE SIPDE DECISION PROCESS

Good drivers don't react — they _____. SIPDE is the system that makes anticipation a habit.

- **S** = _____: continuously search far ahead and around your vehicle for developing situations
- **I** = _____: pinpoint specific hazards or potential hazards in the scene
- **P** = _____: anticipate what each hazard might do next
- **D** = _____: choose your best response before the hazard reaches you
- **E** = _____: carry out your decision smoothly and confidently

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FOLLOWING DISTANCE & SPACE MANAGEMENT

Space is time. The gap between your car and the one ahead is your _____.

- _____ RULE: in ideal conditions, maintain at least _____ of following distance _____ seconds in rain, fog, low visibility or other adverse conditions
- At 60 mph, 3 seconds of space = _____ feet (about the length of a football field)
- Increase distance behind large trucks — they _____ and have a hard time _____
- Tailgating eliminates your _____ — you cannot avoid what you cannot see in time

HAZARD TYPES & ESCAPE ROUTES

Every driver needs a Plan B. Identifying hazards is step one — having a _____ is step two.

- **FIXED HAZARDS** (stationary): _____, _____, narrow lanes, low bridges
- **VARIABLE HAZARDS** (moving): _____, vehicles, debris, animals
- Always identify an _____ before you need one
- Scan your mirrors every _____ seconds so you always know what's behind and beside you

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KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **SIPDE** is a repeatable process — use every step, every _____
- Minimum _____ seconds of following distance; more in bad conditions
- Know your hazards: fixed dangers require _____; variable hazards require constant _____
- Always have an _____ in mind before you need it

REFLECTION

Which step of SIPDE is hardest to do consistently — and why?
